



DISTRIBUTED
2/14/14
2/3/14

PUBLIC NOTICE

January 27, 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has initiated a status review of the Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2074.6, and is providing this notice pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2074.4 to solicit data and comments on the petitioned action from interested and affected parties.

The Department has initiated status review following related action by the Fish and Game Commission. Having provided notice, the Northern spotted owl is now a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act (Cal. Reg. Notice Reg. 2013, No. 52-Z, pp. 2085-2092; see also Fish & G. Code, §§ 2074.2, 2085).

The Department has 12 months to review the petition, evaluate the available information, and report back to the Commission whether or not the petitioned action is warranted (Fish & G. Code, § 2074.6). The Department's recommendation must be based on the best scientific information available to the Department.

Therefore, **NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that anyone with data or comments on the taxonomic status, ecology, biology, life history, management recommendations, distribution, abundance, threats, habitat that may be essential for the species, or other factors related to the status of the above species, is hereby requested to provide such data or comments to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Nongame Wildlife Program
Attn: Neil Clipperton
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95811

Please submit two hard copies and a digital/electronic copy if submitting by surface mail. Comments may also be sent via email to: wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov. If submitting by email, please include "Northern spotted owl" in the subject heading.

Responses and information received by **May 1, 2014** will be evaluated for possible incorporation in the Department's final report to the Fish and Game Commission. The Department's written report will indicate, based on the best scientific information available, whether the Department concludes that the petitioned action is warranted or not warranted. Receipt of the report will be placed on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Commission after delivery. The report will be made available to the public at that time. Following receipt of the Department's report, the Commission will allow a 30-day public comment period prior to taking any action on the Department's recommendation.

If you have any questions, please contact Neil Clipperton at (916) 445-9753 or Carrie Battistone at (916) 445-3615 or the Department via email at wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov or at the address above.

As a candidate species, the Northern spotted owl receives the same legal protection afforded to an endangered or threatened species (Fish & G. Code, § 2085). Research on Northern spotted owl requires appropriate permits issued pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a). Interested researchers should contact Esther Burkett at Esther.Burkett@wildlife.ca.gov for more information. Detection information on Northern spotted owl should be sent directly to the Spotted Owl Database Manager at OwlObs@wildlife.ca.gov. General database information and additional contact information can be found at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/spotted_owl_info.asp